Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   A device for controlling a facsimile transmission of confidential information comprising:

a comparison unit adapted to <u>compare, at a near end, a near end password at said device for controlling said facsimile transmission with a far end password transmitted to said device for controlling said facsimile transmission; and</u>

<u>a transmission unit adapted to</u> allow transmission of confidential information to a far end if <u>said</u> ~~a~~ near end comparison of <u>said</u> ~~a~~ near end password with <u>said</u> ~~a~~ far end password, results in a match.

2. (currently amended) The device as in claim 1<u>,</u> wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> device comprises<u>:</u>

a facsimile machine.

3. (currently amended) The device as in claim 1<u>,</u> wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> device comprises<u>:</u>

a PC modem.

4. (currently amended) The device as in claim 1<u>,</u> wherein ~~the~~ <u>said</u> device comprises<u>:</u>

a chipset.

5. (currently amended) The device as in claim 1<u>,</u> wherein ~~the~~ said device comprises<u>:</u>

a digital signal processor.

6. (currently amended)   The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

an encryptor adapted to encrypt ~~the~~ confidential information.

7. (currently amended) The device as in claim 6, wherein:

said encryptor is ~~further~~ adapted to PGP-encrypt said ~~the~~ confidential information.

8. (currently amended)   The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a decryptor adapted to decrypt confidential information.

9. (currently amended)   The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a signal module adapted to generate a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

10. (currently amended)   The device as in claim 1, further comprising:

a signal module adapted to generate a distribution request signal to prompt a far end user to enter distribution instructions.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password at a device attempting to transmit a facsimile with a far end password transmitted from said far end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission at a near end; and

authorizing the transmission of confidential information from the said near end to said a far end if said the comparison results in a match.

21. (currently amended) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

encrypting the said confidential information.

22. (currently amended) The method as in claim 21, further comprising:

PGP-encrypting the said confidential information.

23. (currently amended) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

decrypting confidential information.

24. (currently amended) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

25. (currently amended) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a ~~far end~~ user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.

26. (new) A method for controlling facsimile transmission of confidential information, comprising:

comparing, at a near end, a near end password at a device attempting to transmit a facsimile with a far end password transmitted from said far end device at a receiving end of said facsimile transmission; and

authorizing transmission of confidential information from said near end to said far end if said comparison results in a match.

27. (new) The method as in claim 20, further comprising: encrypting said confidential information.

28. (new) The method as in claim 21, further comprising: PGP-encrypting said confidential information.

29. (new) The method as in claim 20, further comprising: decrypting confidential information.

30. (new) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a notification signal upon receipt of a password request signal.

31. (new) The method as in claim 20, further comprising:

generating a distribution request signal to prompt a user at said far end to enter distribution instructions.